

From: [Sydnor Hain-Fawzi](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Comment re: Tommy Le, OLEO report
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 10:59:15 AM

Good morning Councilmembers,

I am writing today as a concerned citizen of King County and as a human being, deeply disturbed by the **unbridled** violence and blatant suppression of truth by the King County Sheriff's department.

We give our police great power. We arm them with a wide range of weaponry. The vast majority receive military-style training supposedly on how to protect civilians in potentially volatile situations while protecting themselves. They strength-train their bodies in order to overpower other human beings while they train their minds in procedure and law.

What we see in the Tommy Le case and over and over--to a nauseating and horrifying degree--is how this training gets used as an expression of not only the implicit racial bias of the officers on the scene of a crisis situation, but by the police department who acts to shield them from the consequences of their actions. We the people pay their salaries, we the people are the ones they are sworn to protect, we the people must check this clear and present danger to society.

Despite the training, weaponry, and back up the killing deputy in this case had, he felt such uncontrolled fear and anger--AND SUCH ENTITLEMENT TO THAT UNCONTROLLED FEAR AND ANGER, that he shot and killed a petite young man no bigger than I am, who was clearly having a mental health crisis, and was running away terrified for his life with a pen in his hand. **This deputy was drunk on his power.**

This should have been an open and shut case, but instead there was a cover up. And then a cover up of the cover up. I have deep gratitude for the OLEO office and all the work and people that are bringing this truth, finally, to light. Once again, the King County Sheriff's department's response to this egregious killing of young Tommy was lethargic and impotent-- **this was no accident. This was racism-in-action, plain and simple, and it will not change unless there is accountability.**

Until there are real consequences, these horrific police killings of Black, Brown and Indigenous people will continue. Families will continue to suffer not only the unending horror of losing their loved one to violence but having to deal with the system that operates in the unspoken belief that their loved one's life didn't matter. It is a cycle of trauma upon trauma upon trauma. Tommy Le's life did matter. And still matters-- Right now.

With respect and gratitude for your service,

Sydnor Hain-Fawzi